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Oklahoma State Department of Education New Skills for Youth Academic Affairs and Planning

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Best Practice

Project Impact, AKA TAG, is a comprehensive college and career readiness program offered through elective courses for 8th-12th grade students attending Talihina Middle and High School. Courses available to students include: ACT Prep, Career Prep, and College Prep.

Purpose

This program is designed to increase college and career readiness of Talihina School students in grades 8-12 through the following program features: Career Exploration, ACT Prep, College Prep, Leadership Development, Native Cultural Awareness, Service Learning Opportunities, College Tours/Career Inspired Field Trips, Summer Enrichment Camps, job shadowing/internship/mentoring opportunities, Career Speakers, and Special Events geared toward promoting parental/community involvement.

Grade Level(s)

Elective classes for those students enrolled in the TAG program in grades 8-12

Expected Results

Improve the academic performance, increase the graduation rate, and increase college and career readiness of Native Americans at Talihina High School.

Evidence of Success

Continuous data collection provides quarterly student performance measurements and provides guidance for project design adjustments. Annual student performance reports and surveys are used to evaluate project success, and with evidence-based success, programmatic design is shared with other tribes and educational organizations during National conferences and through the use of the Millennium Group International, LLC.

Quarterly check-in meetings are held by TAG staff and includes Talihina Superintendent,

Talihina High School Principal, Talihina High School Counselor, and Mr. David Billy, Career Counselor with Choctaw Nation Career Development to assess success and provide guidance. All students enrolled in TAG, maintain a career readiness portfolio, which they build upon each year of completion in the program.

Training

Project personnel attend the national Office of Indian Education Conference in Washington D.C. each year. Other trainings attended by personnel include: ODCTE Summer Conference, National Career Cluster Winter Conference, and Choctaw Nation Career Development monthly staff meetings. Program Coordinator/Academic Instructor also attends all staff development meetings held at Talihina Public Schools.

Staff Needed

An onsite career counselor/program coordinator and academic enhancement instructor is needed to fully implement this program, along with the guidance and direction of Robin Counce, Director, Choctaw Nation Career Development.

Resources Needed

This program operates fully on a federal grant from the US Department of Education on an approximately \$300K per year budget for grades 8-12.

Contact Person(s)

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Research

TAG will continue to track students post-graduation for a period up to one year in order to see the correlation of how a solid foundation of a college and career readiness program enables the student to be successful after high school in either a technical trade or college or university. Post high school employment is also tracked for students who have graduated from Talihina High School and had participated in the TAG program.

Key Economic Networks August 2017

